aquaculture, animal husbandry, poultry farming, Krishi Vigyan Kendras etc. for development of science & technology in rural areas.

(c) In other North-Eastern States, programmes under science communication, bio-technology, non-conventional energy, seismicity, S&T entrepreneurship, basic research agricultural research, research facilities, Natural Resource Data Management System and core support for strengthening State S&T Councils etc. have been supported to develop Science & Technology.

Upgrading Drought Monitoring Cell in Banglore

2872. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Karnataka Government seeking financial assistance towards technology upgradation of the drought monitoring cell, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the amount of financial assistance sought for; and

(c) the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 1.0 Crore.

(c) Action has been initiated to evaluate the proposal.

Initiatives Against Natural Disasters

2873. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be plesed to state:

(a) the pre-disaster and post-disaster technology based initiatives launched so far by Government in order to mitigate hardships from natural disasters being faced by the country;

(b) the studies undertaken so far, of the earthquake affected structures and cyclone resistant structures by National Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centers in the country and with what results;

(c) the number of composite-shelters provided so far, for earthquake affected population in Bhuj; and

(d) the steps taken so far, for providing disaster knowledge network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Sir, the Department of Sciences & Technology (DST) initiated a number of technology based projects for mitigating the hardships caused by natural disaters like cyclones and earthquakes by strengthening the observational network with latest state-of-art technology. For cyclone warning, one Doppler Radar has already been installed at Chennai and two more are expected to be installed soon at Kolkata and Nellore. Action has been initiated to install new generation cyclone warning and dissemination systems in coastal areas. In order to process the seismological data in near real time, some of the key observatories have been linked to National Seismological Data Centre (NSDC), New Delhi through V-SAT connectivity. Efforts have also been initiated for microzonation of Urban areas falling under seismic zones IV&V for better planning and preparedness through risk evaluation.

(b) A proposal has recently been approved to set up Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC). The principal mandate of EREC is to collate and integrate the data sets and prepare the site specific risk maps.

(c) 500 shelters using natural fiber (jute/coir) composite boards were constructed at Bhuj by the Advanced Composites Mission of TIFAC (Technology Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council), an autonomous institution under the Department of Science & Technology.

(d) The Department of Agriculture & Co-operation (DAC) is the nodal agency for co-ordination of relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calalmities. A National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM) at the national level and Faculty on Natural

Disaster Management in various States have been created for undertaking disaster reduction activities including providing disaster knowledge network under the aegis of DAC. The Department also extends support of NGOs and other organization of public awareness and community participation activities under a Central Sector Scheme on Natural Disaster Management Programme. A website *(www.ndmindia.nicin)* has also been created by DAC for dissemination of information relating to Natural Disaster management. The Department of Science & Technology has also supported several training courses related to public awareness programmes.

Seismology Research Centre in Gujarat

2874. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering setting up an advanced centre for Seismology Research in Gujarat, as an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology for research and region specific data and activities, using new technologies;

(b) if so, what is the project cost and the pattern of financing;

(c) whether the Institute would be useful in mitigation loss of human life and property against earthquakes in future in the country; and

(d) by when the Institute is expected to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Sir, a proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat for setting up of a Seismological Research Institute. an Expert Group was constituted to concretize the proposal and work out the details. The Expert Group has completed its deliberations.